based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) ranged between 4.5 per cent in July, 1993 to 8.6 per cent in December, 1993 as shown below:

Year/Month	Annual Rates of Inflation(%) WPI 81-82	CPI(IW) 1982
April 1993	6.9	6.1
May	6.9	5.1
June	7.0	5.9
July	7.3	4.5
August	8.0	5.8
September	8.8	6.6
October	8.5	7.4
November	8.6	8.6
December	8.3*	8.6

*Provisional

(c) The relatively high increase in retail prices since August 1993 was mainly due to sharp increase in the prices of primary products.

False Claims for Refund of Income Tax

816. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax department have investigated into the false claims of refund made by senior employees of private sector companies by setting off salary income against bogus business losses;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved in this refund racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Currency Seized at Madras by Enforcement Directorate

817. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Directorate, South Zone has seized foreign currencies at Madras recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against the culprits; and

(c) what is the total quantum of foreign currency seized during 1993 by the South Zone Enforcement Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foregin Exchange worth Rs. 46.5 lakhs was seized during January and February, 1994. Appropriate action as provided under law is taken after the investigations are finalised.

(c) During the year 1993 the South Zone of the Enforcement Directorate seized foreign exchange worth Rs. 160.19 lakhs.

Foreign Exchange Earned Through International Credit Cards

818. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign tourists pay their charges of stay and travel in India through various international credit cards; if so, what measures are taken to ensure that the foreign exchange earned in this manner by the India Airlines or hotels is actualy received by the country;

(b) which are the top 10 international credit cards earning the maximum foreign exchange for India, including the earnings made by each of them; and

(c) whether any changes are proposed in the operations of these credit cards; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Foreign tourists visiting the country may pay their charges for stay and travel in India through the medium of International Credit Cards. The charge slips are sent overseas and the payments are realised through banks in India.

(b) No such information is gathered by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) No, Sir.

Increase in the Foreign Exchange Earnings

819. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the foreign exchange earned by the country on various accounts; if so what is the break-up of foreign exchange earned under major heads, including tourism;

(b) what is the effect of various recent fiscal and monetary policies on the development of tourism in the country, including details of achievements already made in this respect or expected in the future; and

(c) what are the changes already made or proposed to be made in various acts like FERA and Foreign Exchange Control to promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Instructions issued by the Chairman, C.B.D.T.

820. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports published in the Financial Express, Bombay dated the 4th and 28th December, 1993 referring to the instructions issued by the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to the Commissioners of Income Tax Appeals which are alleged to infringe upon the statutory provisions legislated by the Parliament;

(b) whether there is any attempt to diminish the quasi-judicial or semi-judicial authorities of the Appellate Commissioners and what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether directions were issued to the CIT Appeals in the Chief Commissioner's Conference held at Delhi on 24th/25th June, 1993 not to set aside any matter and that the quality of Appellate orders will be reflected in the form of enhancements made/penalties levied/prosecution launched by the appellate authorities; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No such formal instructions have been issued.

821. *[Transferred to 17th March 94.]*

Projects Approved by United Nations Development Programme

822. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved two new projects for India